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Articles

Iraq-USSR: Baghdad's Perspective on Ties

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Baghdad is trying to improve ties with Moscow to ensure Soviet military and political support for its efforts against Iran. Iraq probably will move to distance itself from the USSR once the war ends, however.

Some articles are preliminary views of a subject or speculative, but the contents normally will be coordinated as appropriate with other offices within CIA. Occasionally an article will represent the views of a single analyst; these items will be designated as noncoordinated views. Comments may be directed to the authors, whose phone numbers are listed.

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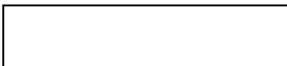
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Articles

**Iraq-USSR:
Baghdad's Perspective on Ties**



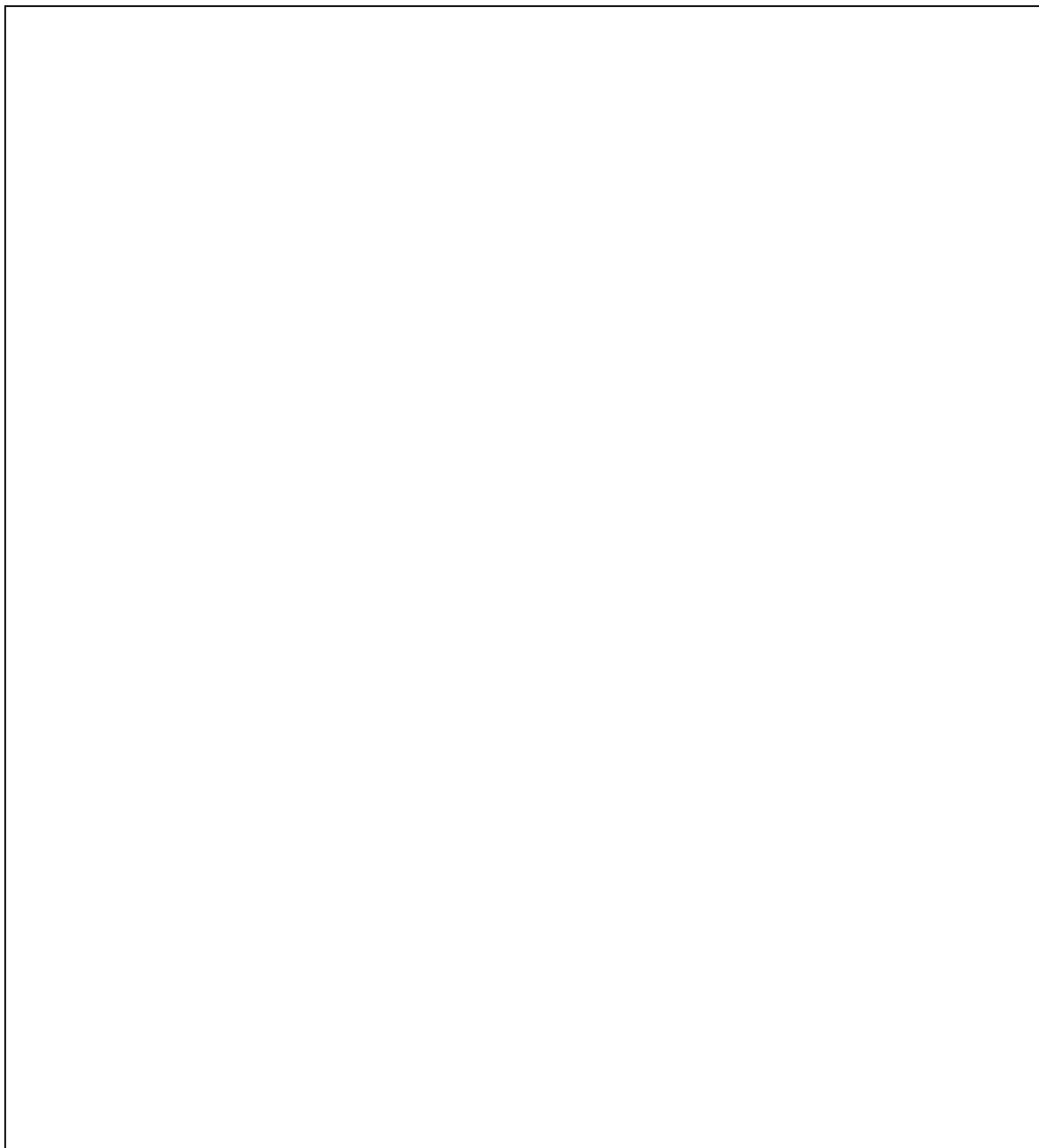
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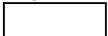
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Iraqi Arms Deals

Outlook

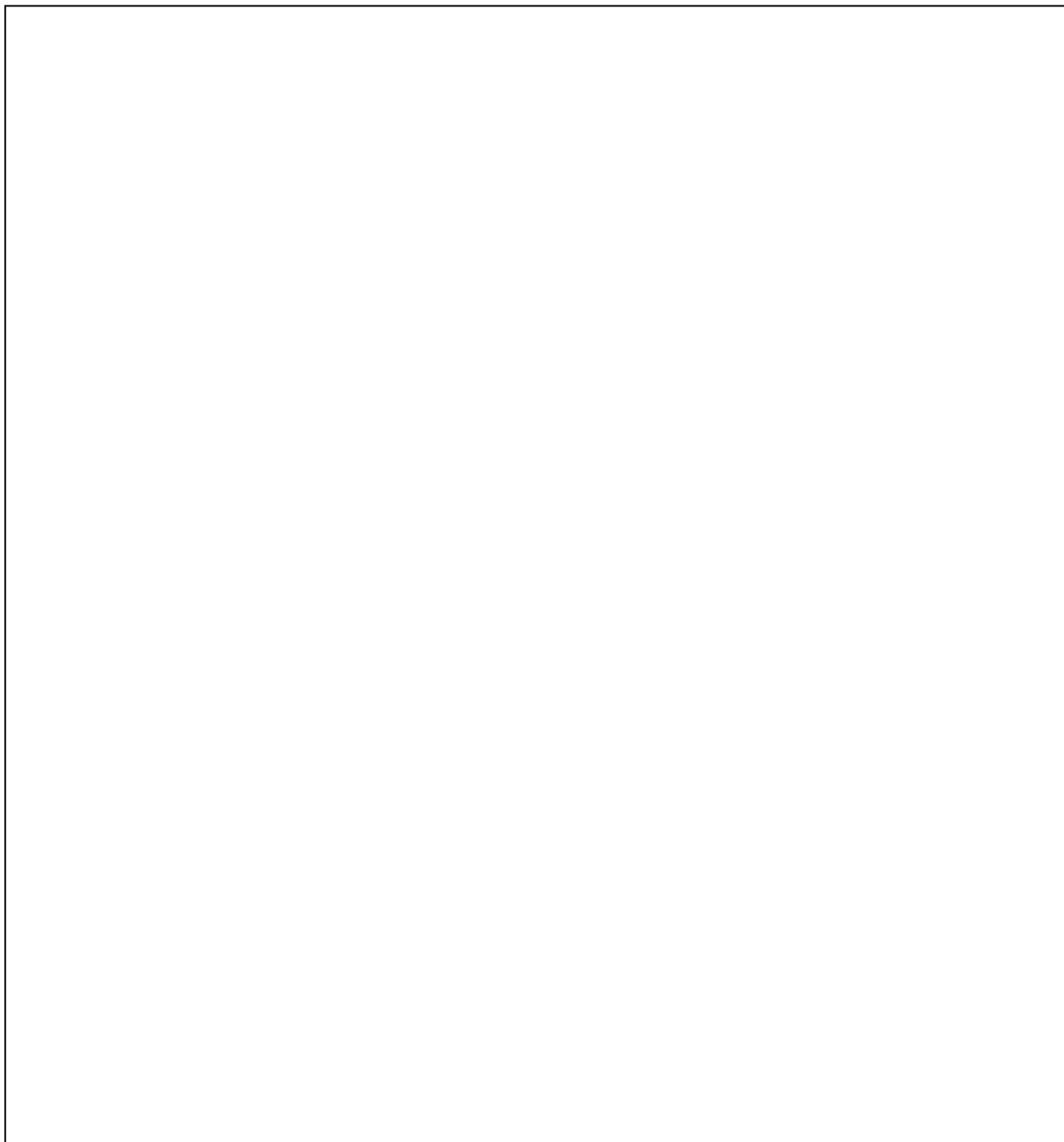
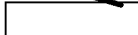
Nevertheless, spurred by the Soviet refusal to supply arms to Baghdad at the start of the conflict, Iraq has continued its prewar efforts to diversify its sources of arms supply. Non-Communist countries have accounted for about half the value of arms contracts since the war began. French weapons deals with Baghdad total almost \$5 billion—\$2 billion more than the Soviet Union—roughly one-fourth of Iraq's arms purchases during the war. French arms deliveries also account for one-fourth of the weapons Baghdad has received.

Once the war ends Saddam will try to reduce Iraq's vulnerability to Soviet military and political pressure by further diversifying Baghdad's sources of military supply, and developing stronger political and economic ties with the United States and the West. Reduced ties with the Soviets will also strengthen Iraq's non-aligned credentials and help persuade Baghdad's conservative Arab allies that it intends to remain within the moderate Arab camp.

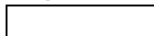
Iraq almost certainly intends to build on its military and political ties with France as a means of reducing dependence on the Soviet Union. France—unlike the Soviet Union—has publicly taken Baghdad's side in the war, and has sold Baghdad Super Etendard aircraft to increase Iraq's offensive options.

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